

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AFRICA IN THE U.S. PRESS, DECEMBER 9, 1976

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1. WASHINGTON POST:

--ROBIN WRIGHT REPORTS FROM SALISBURY THAT THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 400 AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS SERVING IN THE RHODESIAN ARMY. A CHIEF ARMY RECRUITING OFFICER DENIED THAT THE MEN ARE MERCENARIES. NEVERTHELESS THE AMERICANS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST THEM UPON THEIR RETURN. SO FAR NO AMERICAN SERVING IN THE RHODESIAN ARMY HAS BEEN PROSECUTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

--SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA ARE SENDING MIXED DELEGATIONS OF BLACKS AND WHITES TO THE PAN-AFRICAN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY WHICH OPENS IN NAIROBI TODAY.

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ROGER MANN REPORTS THAT THE CONFERENCE IS AIMED AT BRING-

ING TOGETHER EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS FROM THROUGHOUT AFRICA TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL ISSUES.

--SMITH RETURNED TO GENEVA AND HELD WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A "STRAINED" MEETING WITH RICHARD. HE WARNED THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE "OUT OF THE WINDOW" UNLESS IT FOCUSES ON THE ISSUES OF RHODESIA'S FUTURE ORIGINALLY POSED.

--AN EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINING TOWN OF WELKOM, WHICH LEVELED APARTMENTS AND KILLED A MINER.

2. NEW YORK TIMES:

--HENRY KAMM REPORTS ON SMITH'S RETURN TO GENEVA. THE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER LEFT A MEETING WITH RICHARD "LOOKING GRIM" AND SAYING HE WOULD "SLEEP OVER" THE DISCUSSION AND RESUME IT TOMORROW. ANSWERING PRESS QUESTIONS, SMITH STOOD BY HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT THE ONLY BASIS FOR DISCUSSION WAS THE SO-CALLED "KISSINGER PLAN." SINCE SMITH'S POSITION IS APPARENTLY UNCHANGED, OBSERVERS ARE PUZZLED OVER WHY HE RETURNED. ONE SUGGESTION AS TO HIS REASON COULD BE THE UNHAPPINESS IN SALISBURY OVER THE FACT THAT BLACK PROPOSALS HAVE DOMINATED THE CONFERENCE AND PRESS REPORTS OF IT. PROPONENTS OF THIS VIEW ARGUE THAT SMITH CAME LARGELY TO EMPHASIZE THE OTHER SIDE AND THUS EASE THE DISQUIET AT HOME. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, RHODESIA ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST ON CHARGES OF HELPING BLACK GUERRILLAS.

--THE SOUTH AFRICAN JUSTICE MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE RECENT EXPLOSION IN A DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT MIGHT HAVE SIGNED THE BEGINNING OF URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE BY ANTI-GOVERNMENT MILITANTS. HE URGED BUSINESSMEN TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS. JOHN BURNS DESCRIBES THE POLICE ROUNDUPS AND RELEASES WHICH INVOLVE SEVERAL NEWSPAPER MEN. AMONG THOSE RELEASED RECENTLY WAS STEVEN BIKO, WHO FOUNDED THE SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION, A RADICAL BLACK GROUP.

3. THE BALTIMORE SUN:

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--DR ANDREW BILLINGSLEY, PRESIDENT OF MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, ANNOUNCED PLANS TO DEVELOP A "COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM" TO ASSIST AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN DEALING WITH URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS. DR. BILLINGSLEY WAS ONE OF TWO UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO ATTEND THE RECENT LESOTHO CONFERENCE. ROBINSON

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